

## Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 L-02 AID-05 DEAE-00 CIAE-00

INR-07 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 SNM-02 SY-05 TRSE-00 USIA-15

NSC-05 OES-05 OMB-01 ( ISO ) W  
----- 020025

R 220821Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5951

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 2577

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, NL

SUBJECT: DUTCH DRUG POLICY: GON SUBMITS DRAFT BILL TO PARLIAMENT

REF: HAGUE 1822 AND PREVIOUS (NOTAL)

HAGUE A-77

SUMMARY: LONG-AWAITED DRAFT BILL ON DRUG POLICY WAS  
SUBMITTED BY GON MAY 20 TO PARLIAMENT. GOVT PROPOSALS  
FOLLOW GENERAL LINES INDICATED IN PREVIOUS  
EMBASSY REPORTING, I.E., TOUGHER LINE IS TAKEN ON  
HARD DRUG TRAFFICKING, ESPECIALLY IN INTERNATIONAL  
CONTEXT, WHILE USE OF MARIHUANA AND HASH IS DOWN-  
GRADED TO NON-CRIMINAL OFFENSE (FROM FELONY).  
HIGHER PRIORITY IS GIVEN TO TREATMENT. END SUMMARY.

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1. IN MEMORANDUM ACCOMPANYING AND EXPLAINING GON DRAFT BILL ON DRUG POLICY, HEALTH AND JUSTICE MINISTERS STATE THAT FOREIGN CRITICISM OF NETHS' POSITION ON HEMP PRODUCTS HAS BEEN TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN PRESENT PROPOSALS. ALTHOUGH ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE IS TO LEGALIZE CANNABIS USE, GON RECOGNIZES LIMITATIONS IMPOSED BY SINGLE CONVENTION. IT SAYS ITS RECOMMENDATIONS ON HEMP ARE CONSISTENT WITH THAT INSTRUMENT AS WELL AS WITH VIEWS OF US NATIONAL COMMISSION ON MARIHUANA AND DRUG ABUSE (SHAFFER COMMISSION).

2. MEMORANDUM STRESSES THAT GOVT POLICY IS AIMED MORE AT "PREVENTING RISKS" OF DRUG ABUSE TO SOCIETY RATHER THAN "PREVENTING USE" OF SOFT DRUGS. IN AREA OF INFORMATION AND YOUTH POLICY, INTENTION IS TO ADDRESS PROBLEM BY CREATING CLIMATE CONGENIAL FOR DEVELOPMENT THROUGH EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES, SCHOOLING, SOCIO-CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, ETC. IN SPHERE OF TREATMENT/REHABILITATION, WHICH IS IDENTIFIED AS AREA OF HIGHEST PRIORITY, INTENTION IS TO DEVELOP SERVICES THAT CAN BE INTEGRATED INTO EXISTING HEALTH DELIVERY SYSTEM AND TO ESTABLISH LINK BETWEEN THESE AND "ALTERNATIVE SERVICES".

3. IN INTERNATIONAL SPHERE, GON WILL COOPERATE IN JOINT EFFORTS AT ELIMINATING ILLICIT INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC IN DRUGS WHICH POSE "UNACCEPTABLE RISKS", E.G., HEROIN.

4. SPECIFIC PROPOSALS ON LAW ENFORCEMENT SIDE INCLUDE:  
(A) STIFFER CONTROL OVER THE USE OF AMPHETAMINES AND OPIATES FOR MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES.  
(B) STIFFER PENALTIES FOR HARD DRUGS TRAFFICKING - FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKING THE MAXIMUM PENALTY WILL RISE FROM 4 TO 12 YEARS, AND FOR NATIONAL TRAFFICKING FROM 4 TO 8 YEARS.  
(C) INTRODUCTION OF A SEPARATE PENALTY OF ONE YEAR IMPRISONMENT FOR THE POSSESSION OF HARD DRUGS FOR PERSONAL USE.  
(D) REDUCING THE PENALTY FOR POSSESSING HEMP PRODUCTS FROM UNCLASSIFIED

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4 TO 2 YEARS, BUT KEEPING THE EXISTING PENALTY FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKING AT FOUR YEARS IMPRISONMENT.  
(E) INTRODUCING A SEPARATE PENALTY FOR POSSESSING HEMP FOR PERSONAL USE. (A MAXIMUM FINE OF 500 GUILDERS, ALTERNATIVELY ONE MONTH IMPRISONMENT). QUANTITIES UP TO 30 GRAMS WILL BE REGARDED AS POSSESSION FOR PERSONAL USE.

5. SPECIAL PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON DRUGS HOPES TO HAVE AT LEAST TWO-DAY DEBATE ON GOVT SUBMISSION PRIOR TO SUMMER RECESS. WHETHER OR NOT SUCH DEBATE IS HELD BEFORE SUMMER, WE DO NOT EXPECT ACTUAL AMENDMENT OF DUTCH "OPIUM" LAW WILL TAKE PLACE BEFORE LATE THIS CALENDAR YEAR, AT EARLIEST. HOWEVER, WE UNDERSTAND GON WILL PROCEED WITH ITS PROPOSALS ASAP IN THOSE AREAS NOT REQUIRING LEGISLATION.

6. IN OUR VIEW, GON WHITE PAPER, IF TAKEN IN POSITIVE SPIRIT BY HOLLAND'S PARTNERS, AND IF POLICY IT OUTLINES IN RE ENFORCEMENT OF ILLICIT TRAFFICKING AND BETTER PROVISION OF TREATMENT/REHAB SERVICES IS VIGOROUSLY PURSUED BY GON, PAVES WAY FOR MORE ACTIVE AND EFFECTIVE INVOLVEMENT OF GON IN INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS AIMED AT DRUG ABUSE ABATEMENT. SIGNALS OF GON'S WILLINGNESS TO DO SO WERE APPARENT DURING JUST-CONCLUDED VISIT TO NETHS OF SAODAP/NIDA DIRECTOR DUPONT (SEPTTEL).

7. ENGLISH-LANGUAGE SUMMARY OF GON POLICY PAPER HAS BEEN TRANSMITTED TO DEPARTMENT UNDER COVER REFAIR.  
GOULD

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, DRUG CONTROL, LAW, LEGISLATIVE BILLS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 MAY 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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Margaret P. Grafeld  
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**TAGS:** SNAR, NL  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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